

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DOHA 00782 261205Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ONY-00 /026 W

-----091233 261220Z /45R

O 261140Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2747

CONFIDENTIAL DOHA 0782

FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, QA  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR QATAR

REF: STATE 147815

1. WE FIND HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR QATAR CONVEYED IN REFTEL TO BE GENERALLY ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE AND

BALANCED.

2. OUR COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. WOMEN'S NON-RIGHTS MOST NEGATIVE ASPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS PICTURE IN QATAR. FAINT STIRRINGS OF CONSCIOUSNESS FROM WOMEN THEMSELVES ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED BY RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY WHOSE CLOUT ON SUBJECT REMAINS DECISIVE. POSITIVE ELEMENT IS WOMEN'S SECTION OF QATAR UNIVERSITY, WHICH FROM ITS FOUNDATION RECOGNIZED DESIRABILITY OF PERMITTING WOMEN ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION, INDICATING HOPE FOR IMPROVED STATUS IN FUTURE. THERE WILL BE MUCH PUSHING AND PULLING ON THIS ISSUE, MOSTLY UNDER THE SURFACE OF THIS SOCIETY, FOR YEARS TO COME, PITTING WOMEN THEMSELVES AND MORE LIBERAL MINDED OF LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING AMIR, AGAINST RELIGIOUS FITURES. THIS IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE AREA, AND OUTSIDE PRODDING COULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DOHA 00782 261205Z

B. PARTICULARLY ONEROUS PRACTICE HAS BEEN ADOPTED TO PREVENT QATARIS FROM MARRYING NON-QATARIS. LATTER ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FOREIGN FEMALE SPOUSES WHO ARE PREVENTED FROM EVEN ENTERING COUNTRY.

C. RE PRACTICE OF CHRISTIANITY, CATHOLIC CLERICS HAVE COMMENTED TO US THAT THEY SENSE GROWING HOSTILITY MANIFESTED IN

DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING VISA FOR REGIONAL BISHOP AND OTHER ATOMS-PHERICS. THEY ATTRIBUTE THIS TO ACCESSION TO POWER IN SAUDI ARABIA OF KING KHALID, WHOM THEY BELIEVE IS MUCH MORE INTOLERANT THAN FAISAL TOWARD NON-MUSLIMS. IN OTHER THAN RELIGIOUS AREAS, WE HAVE HEARD THAT SAUDIS MUCH MORE ACTIVE IN LEANING ON THEIR GULF BROTHERS TO STIFFEN UP MORAL TONE ALONG SAUDI LINES.

D. FOREIGN MENIAL LABORERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM SOUTH ASIA, ARE THE ONLY REAL POOR IN COUNTRY. ALTHOUGH THEIR CONDITIONS OF WORK ARE REGULATED BY CONTRACT AND OTHER AGREEMENTS, GOQ IS NONE TOO ATTENTIVE TO ABUSES AND EXPLOITATION, WHICH ARE COMMON DESPITE BEST EFFORTS OF SENDING COUNTRY EMBASSIES TO PROTECT RIGHTS OF THEIR CITIZENS. ON THE PLUS SIDE, GOQ OFFERS FULL FREE HEALTH SERVICE TO THESE WORKERS AS WELL AS ALL NON-QATARIS.

3. GENERAL COMMENT: WINDS OF CHANGE ARE BLOWING IN QATAR. WITH HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS ABROAD, EXTENSIVE TRAVEL, INFUX OF FOREIGNERS AND TACIT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM AMIR AND OTHER LIBERAL-MINDED LEADERS, GRADUAL LIBERALIZATION OF THE SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SCENE WITH DIRECT IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS ON-GOING. GOQ'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IS WAY AHEAD OF RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP IN THIS MOVEMENT, BUT APPROPRIATELY CAUTIOUS RE SUBSTANTIAL CLOUT RETAINED BY RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP.

4. COMMENT CONTINUED: QATARI RESPONSE TO US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY EMPHASIS CAN BE STRONGLY POSITIVE IF IT RELATED TO HUMANE ASPECTS OF

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DOHA 00782 261205Z

ISLAM, WHICH IS STRONGEST SINGLE ELEMENT OF COHESIVENESS IN QATARI SOCIETY. THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG MORAL POSTURE AND IMAGE IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER FIELDS HAVE STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CORD HERE AND CAN SERVE AS AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE EXCHANGES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

PAGANELLI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 26-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DOHA00782  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770228-0505  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** DOHA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770618/aaaaapgp.tel  
**Line Count:** 100  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3cd17e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 147815  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2030451  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY EVALUATION PLAN FOR QATAR  
**TAGS:** SHUM, QA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3cd17e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009